

Cooper blasts Rt. 78 plan

Council member Sophie Cooper yesterday attacked a planned light industrial area and the proposed alignment of Route 78 as destructive to Newark's Clinton Hill area.

Mrs. Cooper said placing a 35-block industrial area next to a "well maintained residential

neighborhood" would be a "great mistake."

Newark's City Council has already asked the city planning board to hold hearings shortly to determine if the 35-block area between Blenheim Ave. and Harrison St. is justified.

Mrs. Cooper questioned what

would become of the residents of the area which extends from the Central Ward into the South Ward, which she represents.

"What is needed most is new and middle income housing and not industrial development," she said.

Mrs. Cooper termed the align-

ment of Route 78, which runs through the same area, as harmful in that it will dislocate hundreds of families who will have no decent or permanent living accommodations to go to.

"What is needed most is low highway and the industrial area, Mrs. Cooper said would be "crushing" in an area in which "residents have invested and worked intensively to keep residential."

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Mrs. Cooper Opposes Plans Which 'Menace' South Ward

Councilwoman Sophie L. Cooper yesterday declared her opposition to urban renewal and highway proposals that she contended would "destroy" parts of the South Ward.

The targets of her attack were the light industrial Center urban renewal project slated for 20 blocks in the Clinton Hill section, she proposed Rt. 78, which at this time, figures to slice through the residential Weequahic area.

Mrs. Cooper said she was against declaring the light industrial site blighted. The Central

Planning Board will hold a public hearing Thursday on the project.

"People in this 35-block area are exerting every effort to conserve and rehabilitate this section in Clinton Hill," said Mrs. Cooper. "At this point, to try to change to industry this large area which

is immediately next to a well-maintained residential neighborhood (Lower Clinton Hill) would be a great mistake," she added.

Mrs. Cooper declared that low and middle-income housing, and not industry, is needed most in certain parts of the South Ward. She added that many families displaced from the Old Red Ward urban renewal project moved into the Clinton Hill section and established permanent homes that are now threatened by the light industrial proposal.

Mrs. Cooper also declared that Rt. 78 "must not go through the South Ward section as it is now intended—for then it would destroy the same area that has been designated as light industrial, the very same area which hundreds have maintained, worked for and made new lives in for their families."

"The way to the New Newark is certainly not with a Rt. 78 through this area of the South Ward," said Mrs. Cooper.

The proposed route of the highway, as approved by the Federal Bureau of Public Roads, would run approximately along Water

Avenue, the southern boundary of the light industrial area site.

Mrs. Cooper, who said she was in favor of redevelopment, took issue with the City Planning Board and the redevelopment authorities in their action that extended the original light industrial project area south of Arden Avenue.

"When sufficient housing has been constructed in the other redevelopment sections, so that decent and permanent living accommodations can be made avail-

able, then the extension of this light industrial area might be applied," she added.

Rev. John Collier urges support of freedom struggle

The Rev. John W. P. Collier, Jr., pastor of Israel Memorial AME Church, urged his congregation Sunday to support the struggle for freedom in the South through prayer and by contributing to such groups as the NAACP and CORE.

The militant clergyman who returned Saturday from a Freedom Ride in Tallahassee also appealed to his parishioners in support of local struggles for full equality.

"I hope we're going to remember the fight we have here in Newark," said the Rev. Mr. Collier, citing a fight by Clinton Hill residents to halt the raising of a 40-block area for light industry.

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CLINTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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New Jersey

INSIDE NEWARK

Is urban renewal plan threat to democracy?

By LEE JOHNSON

While courageous men and women are blazing new frontiers for democracy in the South, is democracy being threatened here in the North? Better thought indicates that the bulldozing policies of urban renewal agencies are destroying not only the homes in which our people live but also the spirit which sustains us.

A perfect example of undemocratic policies is that of the Newark Redevelopment Agency, which is under Louis Daring, executive director of the Housing Authority.

UNDER THE mask of wiping out slums, reducing congestion, and attracting "new people" into Newark, the Redevelopment Agency is planning to level over 250 city blocks in the heart of town.

These are precisely the blocks on which we have found shelter in a city and a country where many of ours are still barred to us.

These are the blocks on which live approximately 30 per cent of Newark's colored people.

For 30 years the city government has done little to serve these blocks. This means the ex-City Commission and the ex-City "New Newark" both.

THE CITY has allowed the schools in these blocks to run down. Substitutes teach our kids. Supplies are scarce, textbooks are old. Children receive the bite away from college and into trades.

The city has self-polluted housing and health inspectors, permitting slum landlords to squeeze high rents for a shabby apartment.

The city has neglected street paving and road repair, snow removal and street lighting.

THE CITY has allowed all manner of police mistreatment of citizens - including Sunday morning invasion of churches - without punishing the offending officers.

The city has permitted a concentration of taverns, junk yards, and junk shops; it permits thousands of cars to race through our streets, menacing our children, as they come and go from downtown to city suburbs.

The glorious "New Newark," instead of covering these disgraceful conditions, has accelerated them.

Now the big money and City Hall are ready to move.

Now they are ready to wave to good-by.

God we go - wherever we run find a road and four walls. Churches to relocate and rebuild. Families to scrape together another life.

Small businesses to find new patterns against stiff competition.

THEY DON'T want us in the center of the city any more.

Land is too valuable for us to live on but not for fancy models, luxury apartments, "middle-income" projects, shopping centers, factories.

We are the fall guys.

For 30 years we have paid high taxes and high rents. We have worked in menial second-rate jobs.

Now our own tax money will be used to buy us out!

Automation will cut labor costs in the new developments. Superhighways will speed out-of-town customers to fancy downtown shops.

AND in all of this, the people are not even asked what they think of the big plans.

A real estate developer makes an offer. Mr. Daring and Mayor Carlin announce big plans. The draftsmen go to work. A pencil line is drawn. Who will be next to move? Today it's poor working people; tomorrow the professionals, the civil servants, the skilled workers.

AT THE present rate, in ten years instead of 150,000 of us in Newark, there will only be 15,000.

With election districts being gerrymandered and voters displaced, what guarantee do we have that our few gains will stay?

Next week is still another high holiday - Thursday, June 22, in City Hall at 1 p.m. Any citizen can come and speak.

The area which the Redevelopment Agency will ask to be declared "blighted" is about 40 blocks in size. It runs from Aven Ave., south to Watson, from Belmont Ave. west to Bergen St.

If it's labeled "blighted," thousands of families will ultimately have to move - it is make way for factories.

A STATEMENT of opposition to this factory project was voiced in last week's AFRO by Councilman Irv Turner. The statement was welcome.

For too long the Councilman has simply voted "yes" on all these urban renewal plans.

If urban renewal as Newark sees it is "democracy," then we need some re-thinking of urban renewal.

When Foreign Ministers uproot thousands of people, our Government calls world attention to the injustice.

BUT NOW it's our own Government that's doing the uprooting.

Who will call attention to this injustice? Our labor leaders? Our ministers? Our businessmen? Our politicians? Our school teachers? Our civic leaders?

Will you? If all of us are out in City Hall by 7 p.m. with all our neighbors on June 22, then another call will be driven into the coffin of democracy.

Not in Alabama, or Mississippi, or Louisiana, or South Africa, but right here, in Newark, USA.

Irv Turner against factory location for Clinton Hill

"I'm against it"

This was the first reaction of Councilman Irv L. Turner to the proposed light industrial project in the Clinton Hill area.

Clinton Hill residents have formed a "Save our Homes Committee," headed by the Rev. Wendell P. Haysen, to fight the location of a factory area in the southern part of the neighborhood.

The Central Ward councilman said the manufacturing center of Newark should be located in the area around Port Newark and the Newark Airport.

"They shouldn't destroy homes in Clinton Hill to make way for factories," Mr. Turner asserted.